

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Charles H. Humphries, Jr., Administration Building

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Julie Lonon
Ms. Sharon Porter
Mr. Vernon Beatty
Mrs. Meg Clayton
Mr. Rick Gray
Mr. Andy Hayes
Mr. Clay Mahaffey
Ms. Sharon Porter
Dr. Ernest White

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: None

NOTICE TO MEDIA: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80, as amended, the following were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: THE SPARTANBURG HERALD/JOURNAL, WSPA, WYFF, AND NAACP

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Julie Lonon called the meeting to order. Mr. Beatty gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Dr. White to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gray. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Sally Hammond, Chief Communication Officer, honored McCracken Middle School's Drew Lawton on his receiving 2 of the 3 top merit awards in the county – the Highest Scorer on the PSAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing and the top merit award for the Highest PSAT Total Score – at the Junior Scholars Academy Banquet at Converse College. This is the fifth year in a row that a District 7 student has earned a top merit award in the county. Two students - Taliea Hall from Carver Middle School and Lauren Ellis from Jesse Boyd Elementary – were recipients of the “I Am an Achiever” award, a recognition established by Congressman Trey Gowdy in an effort to call attention to students who are just all around good quality people and ones who stand out for their hard work and resilience. Lauren was also honored for placing First Place in the SC Braille Challenge competition for visually impaired first through 12th grade students who read braille. Ms. Hammond invited representatives from the Viking Early College and Spartanburg County's Early College High School to help honor 5 students who have earned membership in the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

The students are Breana Dogan, Ashanti James, Christopher Dowdell, Dylan Page, and Andrew Tate. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is based on the number of hours students have completed in an associate's degree program and an outstanding GPA. Phi Theta Kappa is the world's largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year college students. Major Charles Davis and Ms. Hammond honored Cadet Alex Meyer for qualifying for the State Archery Championships Tournament based on his high score during the SC National Archery in Schools Program Region 3 Regional High School Archery Tournament held recently in Prosperity, SC. Alex scored the region high score of 264 points making him the only JROTC archer from our region to advance to the championship in Sumter on March 30th. Seven art students were recognized for winning Scholastic Art Awards. Scholastic Art Awards are the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7–12. Last year, students submitted nearly 320,000 works of visual art and writing to the Scholastic Awards; more than 85,000 works were recognized at the regional level and celebrated in local exhibitions and ceremonies. Gold Key winners move on to the national ceremony at Carnegie Hall in NYC. Congratulations went to Jacob Smith, Honorable Mention in Drawing and Illustration; Carleton Boyd, 2 Honorable Mentions in Drawing and Illustration; Erin Jones, Honorable Mentions in Drawing and Illustration; Nemiah Miller, Silver Key in Drawing and Illustration; Catherine Chapman, 2 Honorable Mentions, one in Ceramics & Glass and one in Sculpture; Anna Grace Ritchie, Silver Key in Ceramics & Glass; and Mary Cameron Blackstone, Gold Key in Ceramics & Glass.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: There were no Citizens' Comments

V. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Cleveland Academy of Leadership Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2017-2018: A motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to approve the Cleveland Academy of Leadership Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2017-2018, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2017-2018: A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2017-2018, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg School of Choice Designation (SC Code Ann. 5919-350): A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg School of Choice

Designation (SC Code Ann. 5919-350), seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

E. Approval of Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg Waiver Request – Defined Minimum Program – (R 43-231): A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg Waiver Request – Defined Minimum Program – (R 43-231), seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

F. Approval of Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg Waiver Request – Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, duties and Workloads (R 43-205 Section II – A (1): A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg Waiver Request – Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, duties and Workloads (R 43-205 Section II – A (1), seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. She also noted that Professional Contracts will be given to staff on March 20, 2017 and returned to the Human Resources Office by March 30 for the 2017-2018 school term:

Communications: Ms. Sally Hammond, Chief Communications Officer, provided a copy of the communication's overview and media report along with a list of pertinent dates for the month.

Instruction: There was no report.

Student Services: Dr. Sonia Leverette, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted the District was continuing to train educators on the Compassionate School Initiative. She said most principals, guidance counselors, nurses and clinical staff had received some level of training, and that the goal for the 2017-2018 school was to train all classroom teachers and to expand implementation. She also noted her division was working to increase the number of mentors available to students, as well as increase the number of parenting classes offered. Dr. Leverette presented information on the new Tiger Alliance program through Clemson University designed to help empower, enlighten and develop African-American and Hispanic males. She said the college was holding a summit - the inaugural Men of Color National Summit – on April 27 and 28 and that the District would be sending qualified ninth, tenth and eleventh graders who expressed interest and had a 2.5 GPA and was in good standing. She said the summit would emphasize the importance of education, expose participants to the college environment, and help connect students to campus resources. Dr. Leverette provided information about the National Safety

Council's "Alive at 25", a defensive driving course that will be offered to student drivers at Spartanburg High School. She explained this course was designed to be an early intervention program to help prevent traffic violations, collisions and fatalities. Dr. Booker noted for the 2017-2018 school year, every student driver at SHS would be required to take the training and present their certificate before purchasing a parking pass.

Financial Report: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, presented the financial reports for January 2017. She noted comparing January 2016 year-to-date activity to January 2017 revenue was down (3.6%) based primarily on the timing of local revenue receipts from one year to the next. She stated other Spartanburg school districts were experiencing similar issues with the timing of receipt of local revenues. She said she believed it was due to the lateness of property tax notices being distributed in the fall. Ms. Campbell said all would be rectified in the March collections. She also noted expenditures were within target ranges and consistent with percentages from the prior year.

Planning & Operations: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, and Dr. Booker provided updates on the progress for the new elementary and new high school projects. Dr. Booker shared with the board the District's continuing commitment to early childhood education in its partnering with the City of Spartanburg, the Mary Black Foundation, First Steps, the Northside Development Group and Purpose Built Communities to help develop a high quality early learning center on the Northside of Spartanburg under the Educare model. He said the full-day center would cater to the differing developmental stages of children from 6 weeks to 4 years old and will be richly resourced with a wide range of equipment developmentally and individually appropriate for each differing age and stage. The center would also house Cleveland's 4K program. Concerning the new schools, Dr. Booker noted at the end of March both projects would move into Phase 2 site work which included foundation and underground utility work. He provides a two and a half minute fly through video of the new elementary school as well as a fly over of the cleared land for the new high school.

Technology Report: Dr. Eric Levitt, Chief Technology Officer, noted the technology department was working on several large-scale projects involving student/teacher devices, classroom displays and the phone system, as well as technology planning for the two new schools. Dr. Levitt said the District had reached the end of the first four-year cycle for the MacBook Air computers and that the plan was to refresh devices for students and teachers in grades 6-12 and to repurpose the existing MacBooks for use in the elementary schools for students in grades 2-5. He noted in K5 and First Grade classrooms, sets of five iPads would be purchased to supplement the existing iPad inventories. In terms of the classroom displays Dr. Levitt told the board that the current Interwrite Boards teachers use to display their lesson content were aging out. He said since the boards were originally purchased, the industry had been moving to LED flat-panel touchscreen displays that the

District was currently evaluating. Dr. Levitt said the touchscreen display panels offered a much brighter, clearer image to help students see the content better. He said unlike the older whiteboards, the interactive panels were Internet-connected and had their own onboard computer, easily allowing teachers to send content from any device to the board without being connected with a cord to the panel. Dr. Levitt also shared that his department was in the process of upgrading the District and school phone systems with a Voice over IP (VoIP) system hosted by AT&T. He said we would be using E-Rate funds (this is a federal reimbursement program for previous technology infrastructure purchases) to replace existing handsets. Dr. Levitt said the VoIP phone system provided modern calling features that we currently lacked including call waiting, leaving a message on a busy line, and the ability to retrieve voicemail messages via email. He also said local and long distance calls were unlimited, and we anticipated saving \$12,000-\$15,000 per year on phone service. Dr. Levitt reminded the Board that his team was being consulted on planning the technology infrastructure in the new buildings. He said the design plans for the elementary school were submitted in December and that planning meetings were scheduled for the new high school. He concluded his report noting that there had been several requests by parents and students to purchase MacBooks for college. He said the District was exploring several possibilities that would allow the sale of a portion of our existing MacBooks to graduating seniors at a fair market price. He noted this would be a 1-year only offering.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

April Board Meeting: Dr. Booker noted that due to Spring Break being scheduled for the week of April 3-7, the next regular board meeting would be on April 11.

2017-2018 Calendar: Dr. Booker shared with the board that the joint resolution in the General Assembly regarding the 2017-2018 calendar had passed and was awaiting the signature of the Governor. He shared an alternate calendar that reflected a student start date on August 17, 2017 and a holiday for students on August 21, the day of the total solar eclipse.

Budget Update: Dr. Booker shared that the State Superintendent, and House Ways and Means Committee had all submitted budget proposals. He noted the House Ways and Means Committee had proposed a \$50 increase on the base student cost and said it was of concern in large part because the current proposal redirects funds from the EIA (Education Improvement Act) to fund roads and bridges.

Inclement Weather Make-up Days: Dr. Booker reminded the Board that due to the inclement weather we experienced on January 9 and 10, students were scheduled to make up days on February 20 and March 17, 2017. These days he said, were originally scheduled as teacher professional development days. By law, we are required to make-up any missed days on the scheduled make-up days.

State of the District – March 30: Dr. Booker said the sixth annual State of the District presentation for the community would take place on Thursday, March 30 at the Chapman Cultural Center.

2 Days at the Capital (2 DAC): Dr. Booker reminded the Board of the 2 Days at the Capital, a two day event sponsored by the SCSBA during the legislative session for board members, superintendents and other public school advocates. He said during the meeting, members would spend time at the State House meeting with legislators, attending legislative committee meetings, and increasing the visibility and voice of local school boards. The first session is March 7. Spartanburg County is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25.

Staffing and Salary Study: Dr. Booker shared with the Board that Management Advisory Group International, Inc. (MAG) had been selected to conduct a comprehensive Salary Review and Study on behalf of the District. He said they are a national, full-service human resources consulting firm with extensive experience in classification and compensation projects, staffing analyses, position descriptions, organization reviews, and human resources software; and that they had conducted over 500 similar studies in over 25 years of municipal consulting in 24 states, including many studies in South Carolina. He said priorities included the creation of salary schedules where they are currently lacking, a compensation comparison of surrounding districts along with benchmark districts, a review of staffing levels, and market surveys.

VIII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: A copy of the draft Agenda for April 11, 2017 Board Meeting was provided.

State of Economics Interests: Mrs. Lonon reminded the board to submit to the South Carolina Ethics Commission their Statement of Economic Interest. She said they must be filed electronically, and the due date was March 30, 2017.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no Executive Session.

X. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no Executive Session. No action taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 7:16 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT

CHAIR

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED